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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/630,248	08/01/2000	Masaaki Oka	WINX-55325	8369

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EXAMINER

WALLACE, SCOTT A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2675

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/630,248

Applicant(s)

OKA ET AL

Examiner

Scott Wallace

Art Unit

2675

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 24-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 24-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Priority

1. Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 09/22/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Egan does not disclose "using an identical pixel pattern in a first access of memory and in subsequent accessing of the memory. As seen in fig 3A, #10 and #2 are both three wide (identical pixel pattern). Each is accessed in memory at different times. Egan does not say that you can't use the same pattern again.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 5-6, 8, 24-26, 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoden et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,251,296 in view of Egan, U.S. Patent No. 6,222,561.

4. As per claims 5 and 25, Rhoden et al discloses an apparatus comprising:

A processor for generating coordinate data specifying a desired primitive (column 4 lines 15-20);

A pixel generator for generating pixel data of the desired primitive (column 4 lines 15-22 and 33-36);

A control circuit for specifying a shape of an optimal pixel pattern according to the coordinate data generated by the processor (column 4 lines 1-35);

An accessing unit for accessing a memory and storing the pixel data generated by the pixel generator into the memory according to an optimal pixel pattern (column 4 lines 33-36);

A control circuit for specifying a shape of the optimal pixel pattern according to the coordinate data generated by the processor (column 4 lines 15-22 and 33-36) such that the accessing unit stores the pixel data into the memory with the minimum number of times of accessing the memory (column 2 lines 54-61).

However, Rhoden et al does not specifically disclose under the condition that an identical pixel pattern is commonly used in a first access of the memory and a subsequent access of the memory. This is disclosed in Egan in column 1 lines 45-60 and fig 3A. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to access the same pixel pattern as in Egan with the system of Rhoden et al because this renders the primitive effectively in as many blocks of nxm pixels as is required.

5. As per claims 6 and 26, Rhoden et al discloses wherein the control circuit specifies the shape of the optimal pixel pattern by selecting one pixel pattern from a plurality of pixel patterns according to the coordinate data, the plurality of pixel patterns being different in shape from each other and each of the plurality of pixel patterns having the same number of pixels (column 6 lines 5-20).

6. As per claim 8, Rhoden does not specifically disclose a video game comprising the apparatus according to claim 5. However, Rhoden does disclose how the graphics workstation industry has been driven to provide more powerful computer graphics workstations which can perform graphics simulations quickly and with increased detail. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the system of Rhoden with the a video game system because this would have allowed the graphics simulations to perform more quickly since the tile hit rates are improved (column 4 lines 1-6) and the object of video games is to provide graphics quickly.

7. As per claim 24, Rhoden et al discloses wherein the control circuit detects at least one pixel pattern through which the accessing unit is allowed to access the memory and store the pixel data of the desired primitive, and for outputting pixel pattern information indicating the desired at least one pixel pattern; and said accessing unit accesses the memory according to the pixel pattern information and stores the pixel data generated by the pixel generator into the memory in units of pixel data corresponding to the coordinate data (column 4 lines 15-23 and 33-36).

8. As per claim 28, Rhoden et al discloses further comprising: a step of detecting, of plural pixel patterns formed on a predetermined coordinate area including the coordinate data (column 6 lines 5-20), at least one pixel pattern through which the accessing unit is allowed to access the memory and store the pixel data of the desired primitive, and outputting pixel pattern information indicating the detected at least one pixel pattern (column 4 lines 15-23); and said step of accessing comprising accessing the memory according to the pixel pattern information (column 2 lines 54-61), and comprising storing the pixel data generated by the pixel generator into the memory in units of pixel data corresponding to the coordinate data (column 4 lines 15-23 and 33-36).

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.


10. Claims 7 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoden et al. in view of Egan, U.S. Patent No.6,222,561 in further in view of May, U.S. Patent No. 5,815,168.

11. As per claims 7 and 27, Rhoden et al and Egan does not specifically disclose wherein the control circuit calculates an aspect ratio of the desired primitive based on the coordinate data and specifies the shape of the optimal pixel pattern according to the aspect ratio. However, May discloses this in column 3 lines 42-49. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the aspect ratio of May with the system of Rhoden because this would have provided optimal performance depending on the shape of the image as suggested by May (column 3 lines 42-49).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Wallace whose telephone number is 571-272-7652. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Scott Wallace
Examiner
Art Unit 2675
